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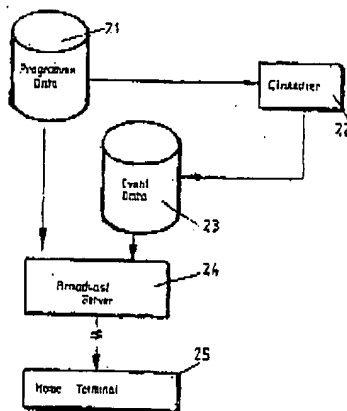
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **TREVOR BURKE TECHNOLOGY LIMITED [GB/GB]**; The Pavilion, Torpenhow, Montgomery Hill, Frankby, Wirral L48 1NF (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **BURKE, Trevor [GB/GB]**; The Pavilion, Torpenhow, Montgomery Hill, Frankby, Wirral L48 1NF (GB).
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- Declaration under Rule 4.17:  
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only
- Published:  
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROGRAMME GENERATION AND CLASSIFICATION



(57) Abstract: A method for generating a programme for presentation to a user such that the presented programme is made up from a sequence of programme elements each of which is a programme clip taken from at least one distributed programme and each of which represents an event. Each programme element is classified on the basis of the event represented by the programme element. Each programme element is stored with at least one associated programme element classification code, and each classification code identifies a class to which the event represented by the associated programme element has been allocated. A programme is assembled for presentation to the user by selecting at least one programme classification code, and generating an assembled programme in the form of a sequence of programme elements associated with the at least one programme classification code. Programme elements are classified using a set of event classes including a plurality of subsets of the event classes. Classification of each programme element comprises a classification operator making at least one selection from at least one of the subsets, said selection determining at least one of the subsets from which future selections can be made. The at least one selection generates the classification code associated with the programme element.

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— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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23 September 2004

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 03/04618

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 G06F17/30 G11B27/034

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06F H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)  
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99/03275 A (BURKE TREVOR JOHN ; TREVOR BURKE TECHNOLOGY LIMITE (GB)) 21 January 1999 (1999-01-21) page 3, line 16 - page 6, line 6 page 7, line 13 - page 8, line 20 page 8, line 24 - page 11, line 27 page 12, line 7 - page 13, line 14 page 14, line 7 - page 16, line 13	1-6
A	EP 0 705 036 A (SONY CORP) 3 April 1996 (1996-04-03) cited in the application column 2, line 46 - column 4, line 56 column 6, line 30 - column 10, line 20 column 10, line 47 - column 13, line 32 ----- -/-	1-6

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/07/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2200 HV Rijswijk  
Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-2016

Authorized officer

Barba, M

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 03/04618

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 102 482 A (HITACHI LTD) 23 May 2001 (2001-05-23) column 3, line 5 - column 4, line 30 column 6, line 10 - column 7, line 28 column 8, line 22 - line 39 column 9, line 2 - line 49 column 10, line 15 - column 11, line 15 column 11, line 45 - column 12, line 34	1-6
A	US 2002/052864 A1 (YAMAMOTO T) 2 May 2002 (2002-05-02) paragraph '0010! - paragraph '0040! paragraph '0081! - paragraph '0107! paragraph '0114! - paragraph '0126! paragraph '0170! - paragraph '0187!	1-6
A	US 2001/026504 A1 (NONAKA ET AL) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) paragraph '0007! - paragraph '0034! paragraph '0054! - paragraph '0077! paragraph '0080! - paragraph '0091!	1-6

International Application No. PCT/ GB 03/04618

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 7, 8

The wording of claims 7 and 8 is unclear to such an extent that not meaningful search is considered possible, the reasons therefor are the following. The subject matter of claims 7 and 8 is only defined in terms of a vague reference to the "accompanying drawings" and does not contain any reference to procedural steps included in the claimed method. This fact creates in the skilled reader a state of confusion and uncertainty when trying to assess the extent of the subject matter meant to be claimed; therefore, a lack of clarity arises within the meaning of Article 6 PCT that renders impossible to perform a meaningful search for the above mentioned claims.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 7, 8  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 03/04618

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